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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

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Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Senior Public Health  
Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1962

H. G. MOUNTER & CO., LTD.,  
PRINTERS,  
EAST STREET, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.



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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1962

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*Medical Officer of Health :*

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Senior Public Health Inspector :*

W. PLIMMER, M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors :*

E. G. PAYNE, M.A.P.H.I.

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To :

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1962. The report contains the usual information on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. This has again been divided into two sections, the first referring to the province of the Medical Officer of Health, and the second contributed by the Senior Public Health Inspector. The report, in the main, follows the same lines as that of the previous year, but certain fresh facts have been incorporated in the various sections.

Some features of the year under review are as follows :—

1. Progress has taken place towards the provision of modern sewerage schemes in various parts of the district, and some detail on this which will be of interest is included in the relevant portion of the Report.
2. The section dealing with immunisation against the common infectious diseases has been re-drafted and clarified, in order to give some indication of the scope of this important preventive work which is constantly going on.
3. It is unusual to have to deal with a smoke nuisance in a rural district of this type, but this problem presented itself in rather an acute form in connection with a paper mill in the parish of Creech St. Michael during the course of the year. A careful investigation was made, and it is pleasing to report that the factory management co-operated fully in tackling the problem. The installation of modifications to the boiler firing system brought about a cure of the trouble.

4. A beginning was made with a meals-on-wheels service for the District. This excellent scheme whereby house-bound and severely ailing people are provided, on certain days of each week, with hot meals in their own homes is operated by the Women's Voluntary Services, and great credit is due to them for this outstanding piece of social service. The provision of a nutritious and tastefully served meal at regular intervals often ensures that an old person who would otherwise have to be taken into residential care can remain at home. Recipients of meals are selected in consultation with the local doctor and district nurse who know well where the need exists. At the end of the year, meals were being conveyed to various people in the parishes of Bishops Lydeard, Norton Fitzwarren, Halse and Cothelstone, and plans were in hand for an extension of the service to other areas in 1963.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials of other Departments, and the Staff of the Public Health Department for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON.



## TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

### Statistics of the Area for the Year 1962

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	70,528
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1962	...					22,390
Census population (preliminary report), 1961	...	...				22,198
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book on						
1st April, 1962	...	...	...	...	...	6,631
Rateable Value 1st April, 1962	...	...	...	...	...	£221,573
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, year 1962-63	...	...	...	...	...	£907 6 3

### Physical Features and Social Conditions

Taunton Rural District lies in the south-western region of Somerset, surrounding Taunton Borough, the County Town. It is roughly triangular in shape, with Taunton Borough situated near the middle of the triangle. The boundary of the district is formed on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater; on the east and south-east by the Rural Districts of Langport and Chard; on the south by the County of Devon; on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington.

There is considerable variation in the type of country found in different parts of the district: in the north and north-west there is high ground forming portions of the Quantock and Brendon Hills; in the south the land rises to the hill parish of Churchstanton lying in the Blackdowns; between these regions lies the fertile valley of Taunton Deane, with the ground falling towards the east to the flat moors and marshy ground surrounding the lower reaches of Tone and Parret. Geologically also, the formations vary. In the north are found chiefly old and new red sandstone; in the south, lower lias and upper greensand; the valley regions have new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The climate is equable, with an average annual rainfall of 36.6 ins., and an average mean daily temperature of about 41° F. in January and 62° F. in July.

Rich arable and pasture land covers most of the district, but some of the hill regions are in the rough uncultivated state, and the soil on the Blackdown Hills tends to be poor in quality. In the eastern parishes the land is subject to seasonal flooding. Communications are good, and almost all parts of the district are easily accessible by road. Following the Tone valley through the middle of the district runs one of the main lines of the Western Region of British Railways and three branch lines leave it at or near Taunton to run to the north, south and west.

There are thirty-two parishes with estimated populations varying from 69 to 3,147. Habitations are widely scattered over these parishes, but there are several sizeable villages, the largest being Bishops Lydeard, Bishops Hull, Lydeard St. Lawrence, North Curry, Trull, Norton Fitzwarren and West Monkton.

Most of the inhabitants are engaged in some form of agriculture, dairy farming being particularly important. General farming is also largely practised, and allied activities are withy growing and basket-making, fruit farming and cider-making. There is a paper mill in the district which employs a fair number of people, and another source of employment for men is stone-quarrying which is carried out on a considerable scale. A factory producing meat products and a branch factory run by Taunton Shirt Manufacturers, are additional centres of employment in the district. Many of the residents in the rural district travel daily to Taunton to work in factories and other establishments.

There is one large institution in the district, namely Tone Vale Hospital in the parish of Bishops Lydeard, which, with its patients and resident staff, accounts for a population of about 1,200.



VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

With reference to the figures which follow, it should be pointed out that the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the populations in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total	} Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 16.1	
Legitimate	181	159	340		
Illegitimate	12	9	21		
Totals	193	168	361		
} Standardised Birth Rate, Taunton R.D. ... 18.7					
{ Birth Rate, England and Wales ... 18.0					

(b) Still Births.

Total...		...	...	...	9
{ Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—					
Taunton R.D.		...	...	...	16.5
England and Wales		...	...	...	18.1
{ Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population—					
Taunton R.D.		...	...	...	0.4

2. Deaths.

(a) Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	278
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population						12.4
{ Standardised Death Rate, Taunton R.D. ... 9.6						
{ Death Rate for England and Wales ... 11.9						

(b) Maternal Mortality.

Total maternal deaths from all causes	...	0
---------------------------------------	-----	---

(c) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—

	Total	...	...	...	...	10
Deaths among legitimate infants		...	...	...	...	9
„ illegitimate „		...	...	...	...	1
{ Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—						
{ Taunton R.D.	...	...	...	...	...	27.0
{ England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	21.4

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—

Total	...	...	...	...	...	37
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Infant Mortality during 1962

Cause of Death				Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital heart disease	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	2
Collapse of lung	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Congenital defect	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital spine defect	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1

## Causes of death during 1962

					M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	13	5	18
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	23	16	39
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	26	22	48
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	16	28	44
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	6	12	18
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	12	20
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	16	15	31
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes—Total					148	130	278

## GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### Domiciliary Services

#### (1) Medical and Nursing

There are seven general medical practitioners living and carrying on the main part of their practice in different areas of the district. In addition to this, most of the Taunton Borough practitioners have some rural district residents on their lists, and there is also, as would be expected, some overlap from the surrounding rural districts in the provision of medical attention. There are adequate arrangements for domiciliary consultation, when required, with consultants serving the Taunton area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory.

#### (2) Home Help Service

This service, administered by the Somerset County Council, is now well established in the district, and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Taunton Rural District during 1962.

T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternity		...	...	...	...	31
Old age	...	...	...	...	...	50
Chronic sick		...	...	...	...	21
Post Operation	...	...	...	...	...	7
Mentally Ill	...	...	...	...	...	2
Post and Pre-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	6
Care of children	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accidents and temporary illness	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total						139

### Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below :—



### (1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton, and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishments, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Pædiatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopædics and Ophthalmology. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose.

### (2) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Taunton Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital is certainly changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by innoculation, and in the past few years there has not been a severe epidemic in this part of the country. Many cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital. Thus although the type of illness dealt with changes over the years, the total number of cases requiring isolation treatment has rather tended to increase than to diminish.

### (3) Tuberculosis

Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at



Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopædic treatment are becoming very uncommon, but when they do occur, arrangements for treatment are made according to the individual need.

#### **(4) Poliomyelitis**

Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

#### **(5) Chronic Sick**

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of the cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton which is having many internal improvements carried out in order to raise it to the highest modern standards. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on.

It was not found necessary during the year to invoke powers under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47, for the compulsory removal to an Institution of persons in need of proper care and attention.

#### **(6) Mentally Sick**

Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

## **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

### **(1) Tuberculosis**

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Taunton Rural District.

### **(2) Venereal Disease**

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue to have observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic. These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

### **(3) Maternity and Child Welfare**

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, fæces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods,

water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

**Ambulance Facilities**

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required. A twenty-four hour service is maintained throughout each day of the week.

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Acute Infectious Diseases**

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases.

Diseases	No  of Notifications	AGE GROUPS							
		1st year of life	1-2 incl.	3-4 incl.	5-9 incl.	10-14 incl.	15-24 incl.	25 & over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever ...	10	—	—	2	5	1	1	1	—
Measles ... ..	64	2	5	12	25	8	6	3	3
Whooping cough ...	4	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1
Dysentery ...	5	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—



The following table shows notification rates of the above diseases for Taunton Rural District compared with the same rates in the previous year. In each instance these rates are calculated as numbers of notified cases per 1,000 of population, except with Puerperal Pyrexia in which the rate is furnished by the number of cases per 1,000 total live and still births :—

Diseases	No. of Notifications in Taunton Rural District	Rates for Taunton R.D.	
		1962	1961
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	0.44	0.44
Measles ... ..	64	2.85	17.0
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	0.17	1.24
Acute Pneumonit ... ..	5	0.22	0.04
Dysentery ... ..	5	0.22	0.00

## Tuberculosis

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1962 and mortality from the disease.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1962

Ages in years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp'tory		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35 ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
36—45 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55 ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
50—65 ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
66 and up ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	6		2		—		—	

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 94 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 17 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

## IMMUNISATION

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria has been an outstanding success in this district and in the country as a whole; but it remains essential that all young children should be given the benefit of this protection, and there is some evidence that without constant stress on this fact, the number of children being immunised each year might easily fall to a dangerously low level.

Total "Primaries" under 5 years	...	218
Total "Primaries" 5—14 years	...	26
Total Re-inforcements	...	180

### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

It is customary in the County of Somerset to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria, and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

77 babies under one year of age were immunised against whooping cough. This is 21.3% of the total annual live births.

### Tetanus Immunisation.

Immunisation against tetanus is now also being offered to children, the required injections usually being combined in the series given against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Number of children immunised :—

	Primaries	Re-inforcing
Under 1 year	77	—
1—5 years	142	7
6—10 years	9	37
11—16 years	—	—

### Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

Poliomyelitis immunisation, which formally involved injections is now carried out by giving the material by mouth. During 1962 the following persons received a course of primary vaccination or oral doses.



Children born in 1962	...	...	...	...	28
Children (aged up to 18 years)	...	...	...	...	220
Young Persons (aged 19—29 years)	...	...	...	...	41
Persons under 40 years and priority groups	...	...	...	...	88
Total					<u>377</u>

In addition 513 persons, comprising all groups, received their third (re-inforcing) injection.

131 children between 5—12 years received a 4th re-inforcing injection.

124 children between 5—12 years received a dose of oral after 3 injections.

### Small Pox Vaccinations.

The aim in future will be to vaccinate children routinely in the second year of life.

The greatly increased number of children and adults vaccinated in 1962 resulted from the smallpox epidemic which occurred in the North, the Midlands and South Wales in the early months of the year.

				Vaccination		Re-vaccination	
				1961	1962	1961	1962
Under 1 year	...	...	...	158	198	1	1
1 year	...	...	...	5	30	1	2
2—4 years	...	...	...	13	87	3	56
5—14 years	...	...	...	12	303	5	415
15 or over	...	...	...	3	473	1	1,192
Totals	...	...	...	<u>191</u>	<u>1,091</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1,666</u>

### B.C.G. Immunisation against T.B.

Immunisation against Tuberculosis by the use of B.C.G. vaccine is offered to susceptible children at the age of thirteen.

35 children attending school in the rural district were given the Heaf Test and 34 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

Of the 6,631 houses in the district, it is estimated that 5,060 are connected with a public piped water supply.

Public water undertakings owned by the Council are six in number, viz :—

1.	Eastern Parishes (formerly Portman)	...	} Treated by chlorina- tion
2.	Churchstanton	... ..	
3.	Cothelstone	... ..	
4.	Thurlbear	... ..	
5.	West Bagborough	... ..	} Unchlor- inated
6.	Westleigh, Lydeard St. Lawrence	... ..	

Chemical and bacteriological sampling of public water supplies is done periodically throughout the year. No plumbo-solvent action exists in any of the water supplies in the district.

In addition to the supplies owned by the Taunton Rural District Council there is an extensive portion of the district served by the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking. The following parishes are supplied as a whole or in part from this source :— Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Kingston St. Mary, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staplegrove, Stoke St. Mary, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton. This water is regularly tested and kept under supervision by the Taunton Borough authorities, and has maintained a consistently excellent standard.

The remainder of the district is supplied chiefly from wells, most of them coming into the shallow category, and thus being very liable to pollution. Cleaning of contaminated wells followed by chlorination sometimes results in a pure supply for a period of time, but the trouble is always likely to recur, and the wells can never be relied upon to provide a constant wholesome supply. Often boiling of water before use has to be advised, and the problem will not be satisfactorily solved until piped water is taken to the properties concerned.

## **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

Ten of the thirty-two parishes in the District are served by sewage disposal works, but in five of the ten the works are not satisfactory from a health and amenity point of view. The remaining five, namely Bishops Lydeard, Trull, Norton Fitzwarren, Ruishton and Creech St. Michael drain to modern and efficient works.

The scheme for Trull Parish was completed during the year under review.

As was mentioned in the previous year's report, a survey of drainage and sewage disposal facilities in certain parishes was carried out by the Public Health Department in the latter half of 1961 and the beginning of 1962. The report of this survey was completed and presented to the Council in the early part of the year with a view to a decision on the relative urgency for new schemes to be put in hand. A detailed account was provided of existing conditions in eight parishes of the district and in part of a ninth parish. A table follows giving a statistical summary of this material, which it is useful to put on record.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES IN VARIOUS PARISHES

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Parish	Area (in acres)	Popula- tion	No. of inhab- ited properties	Water Supply		Facilities			Sewerage and Drainage		
				Main Supply	Wells or Springs	No. of props. with W.C.	No. of props. with sink	No. of props. with bath- room	To sewerage works or publicly owned tank	Private septic tank	Pail Closet
Cheddon Fitzpaine	1,772	564	189	157	31	161	172	155	105	78	14
Durston	1,013	137	51	—	51	23	41	25	—	23	28
Halse	1,320	260	82	76	6	72	79	65	—	66	16
Henlade	500	350	132	132	—	54	128	53	—	54	78
(portion of Ruish- ton parish)	(approx)	(approx)									
Kingston St. Mary	2,584	668	249	136	113	172	238	197	36	162	48
Lydeard St.	2,748	360	130	72	—	56	59	59	38	28	11
Lawrence			(approx)								
Staplegrove	1,015	451	172	145	27	153	155	151	107	55	10
West Bagborough	2,006	398	129	90	36	110	124	107	34	80	15
West Monkton	2,958	1,696	530	497	33	467	508	441	124	345	60
Total	15,916	4,884	1,664	1,305	297	1,268	1,504	1,253	444	891	280



After careful consideration of the state of affairs in these several parishes, the Council decided on the following priorities for the preparation of schemes :—

- (a) that first priority should be given to the carrying out of sewerage schemes in the parishes of West Monkton and Kingston St. Mary, and that the Council's Consultants should be asked to prepare plans for these parishes as soon as possible;
- (b) that the Council be informed that this Committee also realise that the Henlade part of Ruishton, and West Bagborough are in need of a public sewerage system and that they hope it will be possible for schemes to be prepared for these two areas in the near future.
- (c) that having regard to considerable development which has recently taken place in the parish of Staplegrove and the Medical Officer's report on the existing public sewerage facilities in that parish, enquiries be made to ascertain if the renewal of such sewers would improve existing conditions.

The remaining parishes of the District are now being surveyed in a similar way, and will be reported upon to the Council probably towards the end of 1963.

## Housing

Provision of houses in the District by the Council has gone on steadily throughout the year. 23 were completed in 1962 and since the end of the war 804 have been built. In addition to this, about 944 houses have been built by private enterprise during the same period. This building activity has had some effect on the waiting list of families requiring accommodation, but continued efforts in this direction will be required for some time to come. There were about 291 applicants for Council houses on the waiting list at the end of 1962.

The Council's building programme was as follows :—

Parish	Number completed during 1962			Number under construction at 31st Dec., 1962
Bishops Lydeard	...	...	—	14 (flats)
West Monkton	...	...	7	—
Creech St. Michael	...	...	10	—
Lydead St. Lawrence	...	...	6	—
Kingston St. Mary	...	...	—	8
			<hr/> 23	<hr/> 22



The following table shows the number of houses owned by the Council :—

	Parish					Number of houses
Bishops Hull	...	...	...	...	...	150
Bishops Lydeard	...	...	...	...	...	247
Cheddon Fitzpaine	...	...	...	...	...	21
Churchstanton	...	...	...	...	...	24
Combe Florey	...	...	...	...	...	4
Corfe	...	...	...	...	...	8
Creech St. Michael	...	...	...	...	...	62
Curland	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hatch Beauchamp	...	...	...	...	...	23
Kingston St. Mary	...	...	...	...	...	36
Lydeard St. Lawrence	...	...	...	...	...	34
North Curry	...	...	...	...	...	63
Norton Fitzwarren	...	...	...	...	...	167
Otterford	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pitminster	...	...	...	...	...	40
Ruishton	...	...	...	...	...	60
Staplegrove	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stoke St. Gregory	...	...	...	...	...	50
Stoke St. Mary	...	...	...	...	...	12
Thornfalcon	...	...	...	...	...	8
Trull	...	...	...	...	...	14
West Bagborough	...	...	...	...	...	34
West Hatch	...	...	...	...	...	4
West Monkton	...	...	...	...	...	127
Total						1,202

The following table refers to properties dealt with under slum clearance procedure :

Action	Houses dealt with during 1962	Total number of houses dealt with since 1.1.55
1. Acquired by Council for demolition (site to be used for erecting new houses) ... ..	—	6
2. Demolition Order made ...	2	57
3. Undertaking given not to use for human habitation ... ..	24	87
4. Houses actually demolished ...	15	37
5. Clearance Area Procedure carried out ... ..	—	5 (in one terraced block)
6. Closing Order ... ..	5	13

The year showed very gratifying progress in the field of Improvement Grants. During the year, 8 Discretionary Grants and 39 Standard Grants were made, bringing the total of Improvement Grants for the District up to the end of 1962 to 388.

### **CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960**

During 1962, 26 site licences were issued, 25 of these being for individual caravans, and 1 licence was issued to a site accommodating two or more caravans.

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a tabular statement of work carried out during the year 1962 :—

Number and nature of inspections :—

Dwelling houses (Inspections, revisits, etc.)	...	471
Food Premises	... ..	118
Rodent Control	... ..	31
Slaughterhouses	... ..	1,495
Factories and Workshops	... ..	92
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions)		
Act, 1956	... ..	105
Water Supplies	... ..	111
Drainage (foul ditches, etc.)	... ..	121
Moveable dwellings	... ..	172
Refuse collection and disposal	... ..	450
Clean Air Act, 1956	... ..	42
Miscellaneous	... ..	184

### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Work has continued during the year on the inspection and supervision of food premises in the area. It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any cases for breach of the regulations.

### Water Samples

69 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination during the year. Of this number 36 have been taken from private supplies, and reported on as follows :—

Grade 1.	10 samples
2.	2 „
3.	2 „
4.	22 „
	<hr/>
	36
	<hr/>

Advice on improving existing supplies and warnings against drinking water without boiling have been issued in all appropriate cases.

33 samples of water have been obtained from the various public supplies in the area, for bacteriological examination during the year.

Six chemical samples have been taken and all were satisfactory.

## **Bakehouses**

There are 3 bakehouses in the district.

## **Ice Cream**

The number of retailers of this product in the area is 78. They sell pre-packed ice cream, which is stored in properly constructed refrigerators.

## **Rodent Control**

An operator is employed jointly with Wellington R.D.C. During the year the sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse tips were inspected and treated systematically. Private dwelling houses and business premises have been surveyed and treated both from complaints made and infestations discovered during surveys. Summary of inspection and control measures taken are as follows—

## Report for 12 months ending 31st December, 1962

	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricul- tural
	(1) Local Autho- rity	(2) Dwell- ing Houses	(3) All others (includ- ing Business Premises)	(4) Totals 1, 2 & 3	
I. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	17	5,839	577	6,433	559
II. Number of Properties in- spected as a result of					
(a) Notification ...	12	202	19	233	14
(b) Surveys ...	5	316	86	407	96
(c) Otherwise ...	—	115	52	167	38
III. Total Inspections carried out — including re-inspec- tions ...	141	748	127	1,016	134
IV. Number of Properties in- spected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats {      Major	—	1	—	1	3
Minor	12	189	10	211	10
(b) Mice {      Major	—	1	—	1	—
Minor	—	8	4	12	—
V. Number of Infested Prop- erties treated by the L.A.	17	292	13	322	11
VI. Total Treatments carried out including re-treatments	30	306	13	349	11
VII. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act.					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block Con- trol" schemes carried out	—	7	—	—	—



**Meat Inspection**

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part**

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses
Number killed (if known)	3,061	873	15,262	68,654	47,040	0
Number inspected ...	3,061	873	15,262	68,592	47,040	0
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	1	13	15	63	142	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	70	200	12	337	1,280	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci ... ..	2.31	2.44	0.18	0.06	0.03	0
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	1	0	0	0	534	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	0.33	0	0	0	0.11	0
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	16	3	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion ... ..	16	3	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

No changes have been made in this service during the year. All parishes have a fortnightly collection with the exception of Bishops Hull and Bishops Lydeard which have a weekly service.

## Salvage Collection and Sales

The following items of salvage were disposed of during the year :

Material	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Newsprint ... ..	89	14	1	0	206	11	6
Cardboard ... ..	36	11	2	0	95	6	1
Rags ... ..	4	19	3	0	33	13	3
Woollens ... ..		9	3	9	27	10	6
Battery Lead ... ..		3	3	17	3	1	9
Scrap Iron ... ..	4	2	2	0	24	15	0
Cable Lead ... ..				30		7	6
Lead ... ..		1	3	22	3	5	6
Metal ... ..	1	12	3	8	84	10	6
Meal Bags and Paper Bags ...		5	1	0		10	6
Sack Bags ... ..		175			2	3	9
Bottles ... ..		141	$\frac{1}{2}$	doz.	7	1	6
					<hr/> £488 17 4 <hr/>		

## Factories Act, 1961

The inspection of factories and workshops in the district from a public health point of view is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. Routine visits are paid to the various premises and the following table gives particulars of this work.

**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :—

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	10	2	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	78	86	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	6	4	0	0
Total ...	94	92	0	0











